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DATE: March 13, 2007

TO: Council Members

FROM: S. Derek Phelps, Executive Director

RE: **DOCKET NO. 329** – Optasite Towers LLC and Omnipoint Communications, Inc. application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility at 651 Paddock Avenue in Meriden, Connecticut.

I. Introduction

The application is from Optasite Towers LLC and Omnipoint Communications, Inc. for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility and associated equipment in the Town of Meriden, Connecticut.

Optasite's proposed site is located at 651 Paddock Avenue, next to the Wilbur Cross Parkway. At this location, Optasite would erect a 120-foot "stealth" monopole within a 50-foot by 90-foot compound enclosed by an eight-foot chain link fence. The Paddock Avenue property is also used by the First Assembly of God Church of Meriden.

II. Technical

The application includes relevant maps, descriptions of the proposed prime and alternate site, costs, a description of the environmental effects of the proposed construction, and health and safety information. The application meets statutory technical requirements for processing the application. Council staff believes additional information can be obtained through pre-hearing interrogatories. This project would not require an outside consultant.

III. Administrative Review

The applicant has stated that all service and filing requirements pursuant to General Statutes § 16-501 (b) have been fulfilled. The applicant stated that notice to the general public was published in the The Hartford Courant and The Record Journal.

IV. Procedural

The Council must schedule a hearing for the proceeding between 30 and 150 days after receipt of an application. The Council must also appoint a custodian of the docket and designate a place for the deposition of the transcript. Staff recommends designating Adriana Popa as custodian of the docket, holding the public hearing in the City of Meriden on Thursday, May 3, 2007, and depositing the transcript in the City Clerk's Office of the Meriden City Hall.

V. Proposed Schedule

Application received	02/13/07
Completeness review	03/13/07
Subcommittee meeting	03/13/07
Pre-hearing Questions	
• Set-One Filed	03/16/07
• Set-One responses due	04/04/07
• Set-Two Filed	04/06/07
• Set-Two responses due	04/27/07
Pre-hearing conference (10:00 a.m.)	04/05/07
Pre-filed testimony due	04/27/07
Deadline to request Party/Intervenor status	04/27/07
Field review (2:00 p.m.)	05/03/07
Hearing (3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.)	05/03/07
Close of Record	06/04/07
Draft Findings of Fact	06/08/07
Draft Findings of Fact, Opinion & Decision & Order	06/22/07
Deadline for Decision	08/12/07
180-day extension date	02/08/08

David Martin
Siting Analyst